

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Originally-numbered claim 97 (re-numbered claim 49) has been amended as follows:

Claim 97. (Currently Amended.) The method of Claim ~~97~~ 93, wherein said food-contacting surface comprises a surface belonging to a glove, a mitt, a fork, a spoon, a knife, a slicer, a tong, a ladle, a scoop, a cup, a processor, a juicer, a grinder, a press, a hook, a chipper, a peeler, a cutter, a screw, an opener, a chute, a spatula, a cutting board, a kneading board, a rack, or a shelf.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Jeffrey F. Craft on March 26, 2008.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey E. Russel at telephone number (571) 272-0969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Cecilia Tsang can be reached at (571) 272-0562. The fax number for formal communications to be entered into the record is (571) 273-8300; for informal communications such as proposed amendments, the fax number (571) 273-0969 can be used. The telephone number for the Technology Center 1600 receptionist is (571) 272-1600.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jeffrey E. Russel/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1654

JRussel

April 2, 2008